

Marking and Assessment Boycott Summer 2023 Exceptional Degree Classification Schemes for Provisional Classifications

June 2023

1. Introduction

The School has approved the following exceptional degree classification schemes for use during 2023, in cases where students have partial mark profiles. When considering students for awards, examiners should apply the following schemes based on the number of classification marks available.

The underlying principle behind these amendments is to enable students to be awarded as soon as possible and to appropriately mitigate the potential impact of the marking and assessment boycott.

These schemes allow for students to be awarded a final degree with a provisional classification. This provisional classification will be superseded by a final classification once the student has a full mark profile. If at this point, a student achieves a higher classification, a new award will be confirmed. If a student would have achieved a lower classification, the higher provisional classification will stand. There may be cases where an award with a provisional classification must be rescinded, but the school expects such instances to be rare. For example, in cases where once results are known a student has failed the degree or where a student is required to resit, and has attempts remaining, in order to be eligible for an award.

2. Undergraduates

2.1 The following temporary amendments will apply to the [Three-year classification scheme for BA/BSc/LLB degrees](#):

Classification Marks

Students can be awarded if they have a *minimum* of fourteen classification marks. Of these, a *minimum* of twelve classification marks must come from second and third year courses. Unredeemed fails will not be counted as contributing to the number of classification marks required to be awarded, but they will form part of the calculation of the award. For example, if there are twelve second and third year classification marks, the thirteenth and fourteenth classification marks will use the First Year Average full unit mark counted twice. The First Year Average will be calculated in the usual way. As per the current [Regulations for First Degrees](#), *students with an absent mark for a 2022/23 assessment or an outstanding deferred attempt will not be considered for an award*. The number of classification marks required and the aggregate for degree classification will be calculated on a pro-rata basis and will depend on the number of classification marks used to base the award on.

Where 14 classification marks are available (12 from Years 2 or 3, 2 from Year 1):

- For first class honours: eight first class marks; or seven or six first class marks and an aggregate of at least 918.
- For upper second class honours: eight upper second class marks (or above); or seven or six upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 801.
- For lower second class honours: eight lower second class marks (or above); or seven or six lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 684.

- For third class honours: twelve third class marks (or above).

Where 15 classification marks are available (13 from Years 2 or 3, 2 from Year 1):

- For first class honours: eight first class marks; or seven or six first class marks and an aggregate of at least 983.
- For upper second class honours: eight upper second class marks (or above); or seven or six upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 858.
- For lower second class honours: eight lower second class marks (or above); or seven or six lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 733.
- For third class honours: thirteen third class marks (or above).

Where 16 classification marks are available (14 from Years 2 or 3, 2 from Year 1):

- For first class honours: nine first class marks; or eight or seven first class marks and an aggregate of at least 1049.
- For upper second class honours: nine upper second class marks (or above); or eight or seven upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 916.
- For lower second class honours: nine lower second class marks (or above); or eight or seven lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 782.
- For third class honours: fourteen third class marks (or above).

Where 17 classification marks are available (15 from Years 2 or 3, 2 from Year 1):

- For first class honours: nine first class marks; or eight or seven first class marks and an aggregate of at least 1114.
- For upper second class honours: nine upper second class marks (or above); or eight or seven upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 973.
- For lower second class honours: nine lower second class marks (or above); or eight or seven lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 831.
- For third class honours: fifteen third class marks (or above).

Please note that no awards with a provisional 'Pass' classification will be made.

2.2 The following temporary amendments will apply to the [Four-year classification scheme for BA/BSc degrees](#):

Classification Marks

Students can be awarded if they have a *minimum* of twenty-two classification marks. Of these, a *minimum* of twenty classification marks must come from second, third and fourth year courses. Unredeemed fails will not be counted as contributing to the number of classification marks required to be awarded, but they will form part of the calculation of the award. In the case of there being twenty second, third and fourth year classification marks, the twenty first and twenty second classification marks will use the First Year Average full unit mark counted twice. The First Year Average will be calculated in the usual way. As per the current [Regulations for First Degrees](#), *students with an absent mark for a 2022/23 assessment or an outstanding deferred attempt will not be considered for an award*. The number of classification marks required and the aggregate for degree classification will be calculated on a pro-rata basis and will depend on the number of classification marks used to base the award on.

Where 22 classification marks are available (20 from Years 2, 3 or 4, 2 from Year 1):

- For first class honours: twelve first class marks; or eleven or ten first class marks and an aggregate of at least 1438.

- For upper second class honours: twelve upper second class marks (or above); or 11 or ten upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1260.
- For lower second class honours: twelve lower second class marks (or above); or eleven or ten lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1074.
- For third class honours: twenty third class marks (or above).

Where 23 classification marks are available (21 from Years 2, 3 or 4, 2 from Year 1):

- For first class honours: twelve first class marks; or eleven or ten first class marks and an aggregate of at least 1503.
- For upper second class honours: twelve upper second class marks (or above); or eleven or ten upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1318.
- For lower second class honours: twelve lower second class marks (or above); or eleven or ten lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1123
- For third class honours: twenty-one third class marks (or above).

Where 24 classification marks are available (22 from Years 2, 3 or 4., 2 from Year 1):

- For first class honours: thirteen first class marks; or twelve or eleven first class marks and an aggregate of at least 1569.
- For upper second class honours: thirteen upper second class marks (or above); or twelve or eleven upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1375.
- For lower second class honours: thirteen lower second class marks (or above); or twelve or eleven lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1172.
- For third class honours: twenty-two third class marks (or above).

Where 25 classification marks are available (23 from Years 2, 3 or 4, 2 from Year 1):

- For first class honours: thirteen first class marks; or twelve or eleven first class marks and an aggregate of at least 1635.
- For upper second class honours: thirteen upper second class marks (or above); or twelve or eleven upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1433.
- For lower second class honours: thirteen lower second class marks (or above); or twelve or eleven lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1221.
- For third class honours: twenty-three third class marks (or above).

Please note that no awards with a provisional 'Pass' classification will be made.

2.3 The following temporary amendments will apply to the classification scheme for [Bachelor of Laws \(LLB\)](#):

Students can be awarded if they have a *minimum* of seven unit marks. These must come from second and third year courses. Unredeemed fails will not be counted as contributing to the number of unit marks required to be awarded, but they will form part of the calculation of the award. *Students with an absent mark for a 2022/23 assessment or an outstanding deferred attempt will not be considered for an award.* The aggregate for degree classification will be calculated on a pro-rata basis. Pass, compensation and fail rules for year three will apply as normal.

- For first class honours: Four first class marks; or three first class marks and an aggregate mark which is near the 'normal aggregate' of 473.
- For upper second class honours: Four upper second marks (or above); or three upper second marks (or above) and an aggregate mark which is near the 'normal aggregate' of 420.

- For lower second class honours: Four lower second marks (or above); or three lower second marks (or above) and an aggregate mark which is near the 'normal aggregate' of 350.
- For third class honours: Four third marks (or above); three third marks (or above) and an aggregate mark which is near the 'normal aggregate' of 315.
- For a pass degree: Eight pass marks (or above); or six pass marks (or above), of which at least two are third class (or above) and the 'normal aggregate' of 280.

3. Taught Postgraduates

3.1 [Local rules](#) will still apply. When the available marks confirm that all local rules for an award have been met, then a provisional classification of Distinction or Merit can be considered. When the available marks do not confirm that all local rules have not been met, then only a provisional classification of Pass can be considered.

3.2 A [Bad Fail](#) in any course of any unit value will result in the need to resubmit all failed assessments (which might include resitting an exam) in that course. A Bad Fail mark cannot be compensated by other marks.

3.3 A provisional award may need to be rescinded in cases where a Bad Fail mark is confirmed at a later date. In most cases students will have the opportunity to resit if they have an attempt remaining but some students may receive a Bad Fail mark at their second and final attempt.

3.4 The following temporary arrangements will apply to taught postgraduate students due to receive results in July 2023 that are following four-unit programmes. These amend the [Taught Masters Scheme of Award: Four Unit Programmes](#). Students can be awarded if they have a *minimum* of six classification marks, where none of these marks are fails. Unredeemed fails will not be counted as contributing to the number of classification marks required to be awarded, but they will form part of the calculation of the award. The rules on fails and compensation will still apply. As per the current regulations, *students with an absent mark for a 2022/23 assessment or an outstanding deferred attempt will not be considered for an award.*

For the award of Distinction, at least half of the known classification marks must be at Distinction level. For the award of Merit, at least half the known marks must be at the level of distinction or merit. A provisional Pass degree will be awarded in the case of six classification marks at Pass or above.

3.4 The following temporary arrangements will apply to taught postgraduate students due to receive results in July 2023 that are following five-unit programmes. These amend the [Taught Masters Scheme of Award: Five Unit Programmes](#). Students can be awarded if they have a *minimum* of eight classification marks, where none of these marks are fails. Unredeemed fails will not be counted as contributing to the number of classification marks required to be awarded, but they will form part of the calculation of the award. The rules on fails and compensation will still apply. As per the current regulations, *students with an absent mark on their record or an outstanding deferred attempt will not be considered for an award.*

For the award of Distinction, at least half of the known classification marks must be at Distinction level. For the award of Merit, at least half the known marks must be at the level of distinction or merit. A provisional Pass degree will be awarded in the case of eight classification marks at Pass or above.

3.5 The following temporary arrangements will apply to taught postgraduate students due to receive results in July 2023 that are following eight unit programmes. These amend the [Taught Masters Scheme of Award: Eight Unit Programmes](#). Students can be awarded if they have a *minimum* of fourteen classification marks, where none of these marks are fails. Unredeemed fails will not be counted as contributing to the number of classification marks required to be awarded, but they will form part of the calculation of the award. As per the current regulations, *students with an absent mark for 2022/23 assessments, a Bad Fail mark, or an outstanding deferred attempt will not be considered for an award.*

For the award of Distinction, at least half of the known classification marks must be at Distinction level. For the award of Merit, at least half the known marks must be at the level of distinction or merit. A provisional Pass degree will be awarded in the case of fourteen classification marks at Pass or above.

3.6 Any masters programmes that are not explicitly addressed in the above revised classification schemes for provisional classifications should follow the underlying principles regarding the amount of classification marks required, any local rules, and regulations regarding Bad Fails.